

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 13-20 are pending. Claims 1-8 have been amended. Non-elected claims 9-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 13-20 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are the only independent claims.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 2-6 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim. As is discussed below, some but not all of the features from claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and some but not all of the features of claim 8 have been incorporated into independent claim 7. Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 7 are patentable over the prior art.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over U.S. Patent 2,136,925 (Ristell et al.) Amended claims 1 and 7, and new independent claim 13, are distinguished over Ristell et al. for the following reasons.

Each of amended independent claims 1 and 7 incorporate distinguishing features from claims 2 and 8, respectively. The feature not incorporated into those independent claims are the details related to the teeth of the wings. It is not believed that recitation of the teeth on the wings is necessary to distinguish over Ristell. Each of the independent claims recites the clamp having a pair of wings that, upon application of an inwardly compressive force, substantially permanently deforms from an open to a closed position in which the wings are brought in proximity to one another to maintain an end of the length of fabric in a gathered condition between the wings.

Ristell et al. uses a rivet through a hole to keep folded parts of a fan or hat in a gathered condition. Ristell et al. does not teach or suggest the features of amended claims 1

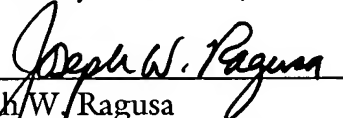
and 7. For at least this reason, claims 1 and 7, and the claims dependent thereon, are believed clearly patentable over the cited art.

New independent claim 13 recites, inter alia, a hanger opening adapted to receive a projection extending parallel to the line along which the pleats are held together. This feature is clearly shown for example in Figures 2-4 and is not taught or suggested by Ristell et al. This feature allows for an easy and attractive hanging of the ornamental bunting. In contrast, Ristell's tubular rivet would not allow for a pleasing mounting of a bunting. For at least this reason, claim 13 is believed clearly distinguished over the cited art. Claims 14-20 are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as their base claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
Joseph W. Ragusa

Registration No.: 38,586  
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
LOSHINSKY LLP  
1177 Avenue of the Americas  
41st Floor  
New York, New York 10036-2714  
(212) 835-1400  
Attorney for Applicant